

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

AMENDMENT

11/17/2004 WILLIAM 000000005500266 10045557
September 29, 2004

In response to the Office Action dated June 29, 2004 which set a three-month shortened statutory period for reply expiring on September 29, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Remarks/Argument begin on page 14 of this amendment.

I hereby certify that this correspondence and/or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" on September 29, 2004.

Brian Ruffe

Cuevas describes an inflator module 10 including a propellant block 40 which is surrounded by a wall 62. The inflator module 10 is installed within the dashboard of the vehicle (see Fig. 1). There is no space between the propellant 40 and the wall 62 in the inflator of Cuevas.

Witte does not provide details of the inflator.

Since Martin, Schafer, Cuevas and Witte do not disclose all of the features now set forth in independent claims 1, 15, 16, 28, 29, 35, 39 and 48-50, one skilled in the art could not combine them to render obvious the embodiments of the invention set forth in these claims or in claims dependent therefrom. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) have been overcome and should be removed.

New Claims

Claims 51-54 are presented herein. Claim 51 includes subject matter previously set forth in claim 35. Claims 52-54 include subject matter from claims 20, 26 and 44, respectively, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable over the prior art of record.

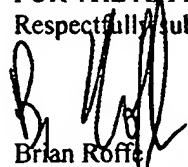
The extra claims fee of \$36 for presenting four additional claims and \$129 for presenting three additional independent claims in excess of three should be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0266.

Interview Request

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to discuss this application in order to advance the prosecution of this application if in the Examiner's opinion, the application can be allowed in view of the arguments set forth.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

FOR THE APPLICANT
Respectfully submitted,



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